Pending proposal for village tanks in Amreli district, Gujarat under Watershed Development Project

2605. DR. A. K. PATEL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal of village tanks of Amreli district, under Watershed Development Project for the earthquake affected areas of Gujarat are pending with the Ministry;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay; and

(c) the time by which they would be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL): (a) to (c) Desilitation and restoration of village tanks is an approved activity under different Schemes of the Ministry of Rural Development such as Integrated Wasteland Development Programme including ongoing watershed development projects taken up under Employment Assurance Schemes, Desert Development Programme, Drought Prone Areas Programme, Sampoorna Gramin Rojgar Yojana, Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme and Drinking Water Supply component of Pradhan Mantri Gramodya Yojana. In order to check the declining water levels in many parts of the country, a one time programme for restoration of traditional sources of water harvesting by desilitation of ponds and tanks at village level has been launched during 2002-03 by pooling of funds from all the above mentioned Schemes. All the States have been requested to issue necessary instructions to the district authorities for formulation of district packages for implementing the programme. In view of this, no action on the part of the Ministry of Rural Development is called for, on the proposals received from certain States including Amreli disrict of Gujarat for desilitation of ponds and tanks etc.